

## Thesis Abstract

No. \_\_\_\_\_

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Title of Thesis: Explaining the Logics of Japanese Space Policy Evolution 1969-2016, Combining Macro- and Microtheories, Notably The Strategic Action Field Framework			
Summary of Thesis: <p>In April 2016, in <i>Basic Plan 2016</i>, Japan produced what amounted to Japan's first timetabled implementation of a series of space programs that are specifically designed to support a more proactive U.S.-Japan alliance role in maintaining a favorable balance of power with China and to more robustly defend Japan against North Korean ballistic missile threats. This policy represents a significant departure from a near 50-year history during which Japanese space activities were prevented from any involvement in national security. The policy is also the result of a long drawn out process of navigating complex interrelationships between external security threats, the U.S.-Japan alliance, and internal policymaking, involving intensive coordination between with Japanese political, bureaucratic, and industrial constituencies.</p> <p>The workings of these interrelationships have largely remained unexamined and unexplained, especially in the most critical period 2008-2016 leading up to <i>Basic Plan 2016</i>. Debate on Japanese space policy so far has been mainly based on top-down models involving traditional macrotheoretical analytical frameworks used mainly to demonstrate how policy change evinces more fundamental continuity in Japan's security strategy. Traditional microanalytical approaches have focused on how institutions resist change and challenges.</p> <p>Yet the evidence gathered in this dissertation shows that in the period 2008-16 there were demonstrable and dynamic changes not only in the expression and objectives of Japanese space policy, but also in the institutional arrangements required to enact them. This dissertation seeks to demonstrate and delineate those changes and interrelationships. To accomplish those goals, this investigation employs the first use of Strategic Action Field theory (the SAF framework) to study and explain the transformation of Japanese space policy. The SAF framework is used to comprehensively analyze the logics of Japanese space policy and institutional change. It achieves this by analyzing how groups of stakeholders in both the sphere of international relationships and domestic players (politicians, ministries, institutions, etc.) dynamically interacted to produce Japan's new policy and institutional arrangements. While uncovering the logics behind Japan's policy, it also notes how progress in policymaking and implementation was forged by a group of experts who have helped push more policy coordination power into the Prime Minister's Cabinet Office.</p> <p>Key Words: Japanese Space Policy, International Relations Theory, Strategic Action Field Framework</p>			